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Valdosta City Schools
Districtwide Parent Involvement Plan
2016-2017

Revised July 29, 2016

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Valdosta City Schools has an on-going commitment to our Title I parents and students as we ensure the success of each child in our district. Our goal is to guarantee that our Title I parents and their children receive extraordinary services and assistance that will lead to improved academic achievement. The district recognizes that parents are an integral part of a child's success in school, starting with the concept of being the child's first, most important, and impressionable teacher.

Expectations for parental involvement are established under Section 11118(a) Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Valdosta City Schools District's plan also describes how the Local Education Agency (LEA) will implement a number of specific parental involvement activities and programs that impact student academic achievement while engaging parents as partners.

Part I: General Expectations

Valdosta City Schools Title I Parent Plan agrees to implement the following requirements according to Title I Federal regulations and Georgia state guidelines:

- The school district will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). These programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.

Consistent with section 1118, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of section 1118(b) of the ESEA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1118(d) of the ESEA.

- The school district will incorporate this districtwide parental involvement plan into its LEA plan developed under section 1112 of the ESEA.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 of the ESEA in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.

- If the LEA plan for Title I, Part A, developed under section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the State Department of Education.
- The school district will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent involvement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.
- The school district will be governed by the following definition of parent involvement, and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring—

- (A) that parents play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning;
- (B) that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at school;
- (C) that parents are full partners in their child’s education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child;
- (D) the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1118 of the ESEA.

PART II: DESCRIPTION OF HOW DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DISTRICTWIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT PLAN COMPONENTS

1. Valdosta City Schools will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its districtwide parental involvement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA:
 - a. Completion of the Title I Annual Parent Survey;
 - b. Review survey results with parents.
 - c. Provide opportunities for parents in understanding and submitting input for District Title I Parent Involvement Plan revisions by posting the parent plan on the district and school websites and in school Parent Resource Centers;
 - d. Meeting notices of plans to revise district parent plan will be advertised through the local media, on district and school websites, and in school Parent Resource Centers;
 - e. Parent notifications to participate in the revision of the Comprehensive Local Education Planning (CLIP) and Title I Parent Advisory Meetings at the district and local school level.
2. Valdosta City Schools will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school planning and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:
 - a. All Title I Parents will receive invitations to participate in planning sessions and provide input on the School Improvement Plan (SIP); Title I Schoolwide Plan (SWP); Comprehensive Local Education Agency Improvement Plan (CLIP), 1% Parent Involvement Budget, and Title I Budget.

- b. Plans will be posted on the District and school websites with copies made available at the District office, in Title I School's Parent Resource Centers.
 - c. Title I Program Evaluations will be conducted throughout the school year with opportunities for parental input on Title I Surveys, at local schools' Annual Meetings, and workshop activities.
3. Valdosta City Schools will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:
 - a. On-going system-wide training, communication, and discussions with schools regarding effective development of school parent plan and compacts.
 - b. Easy and convenient access to district Title I personnel;
 - c. Provide support and assistance in building effective parent capacity in the school;
 - d. Assistance in development and annual revision of school-level parent plan, home/school compact and action plan.
 - e. Provide monthly Technical Assistance to Parent Coordinators as a group and individually.
4. Valdosta City Schools will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs such as: Local and State-operated preschool programs, by:
 - a. Assist in coordinating transitional opportunities for parents and students;
 - b. Provide parent resources, as appropriate, to nurture learning, promote family literacy, and support parents as equal partners in education;
 - c. Host parent meetings to foster confidence in parents as their child's first teacher and support home as an extension of the classroom.
5. Valdosta City Schools will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement plan in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental involvement activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parental involvement plan and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parental involvement policies through the following methods:
 - a. Annual Parent Survey: Parent participation in the annual survey is promoted through local media, district and school websites, and school newsletters. For parents who may not have access to take surveys on-line, hard copies will be provided for all parents;
 - b. Parent program evaluations at the conclusion of workshops meetings, and other parent events;
 - c. Collection and summarization of system-wide data on parental involvement at district and school meetings, events and activities;
 - d. Provide a calendar of events for timely notification. These calendars will highlight events and activities that impact student academic achievement;
6. Valdosta City Schools will build capacity for strong parental involvement, ensuring effective partnership among all stakeholders to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities:

- a. The school district will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following:

1. the State's academic content standards and College and Career Readiness Performance Index (CCRPI);
2. the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
3. the requirements of Title I,
4. how to monitor their child's progress, and
5. how to work with educators:

Activities may include:

1. Parent workshops concluded with program evaluations;
2. Curriculum-based events based on school defined academic goals such as: Understanding academic content standards, CCRPI workshops, Homework Help workshops, Family Reading Night, Curriculum Night events that may highlight state assessments;
3. English Learners (EL) Parent Orientation/Training Sessions;
4. PTO Meetings;
5. Parent/Teacher Conferences;
6. District and school-level Title I Parent Meetings, School Council, and CLIP Meetings; and
7. Explanation of testing and student results;

Collaborative efforts to develop parent programs with:

1. School counselors;
2. EL Program;
3. Migrant Program;
4. Homeless Program;
5. Family Connections of Valdosta-Lowndes;
6. The Boys and Girls Club;
7. Faith-based organizations;
8. Local Public Housing Authorities

7. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools, provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, such as literacy training, and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement, by:
 - a. Use of technology as a learning tool for parents on topics such as the use of accessing on-line grade books, and the Parent Portal;
 - b. Provide guidelines and tips on supporting student learning at home promoting family reading that support vocabulary development and reading comprehension, and understanding mathematical concepts.
8. Valdosta City Schools will provide professional development for school personnel to build parent capacity by:
 - a. Providing training of effective ways to communicate with parents;
 - b. Identify ways to include parents in the homework process;
 - c. Promote cultural understanding;
 - d. Provide Annual Title I Orientation Training to ensure compliance with Title I requirements.
9. The school district will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent-programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children

in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:

- a. Provide written communication, as appropriate in an understandable language;
- b. Contracted services of translators, as needed;

10. Provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1118 as parent may request. All parent involvement activities should provide an academic component towards student learning.

- a. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools.
- b. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with public preschool and other programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children.
- c. The school district will ensure that information related to the school and parent-programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.
- d. Provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1118 as parents may request.

The school district will make this policy available in multiple ways to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before October 1, 2016.